

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 CPR-01 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 EB-07 DOTE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET COMPLAINT CONCERNING HELICOPTER FLIGHT OVER
COMPLEX IN RIVERDALE.

1. DEPUTY CHIEF JAMES MEEHAN, COMMANDING OFFICER OF
POLICE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION HAS INFORMED US OF RESULTS OF
INVESTIGATION CARRIED OUT CONCERNING FEB 24 HELICOPTER FLIGHT
OVER SOVIET COMPLEX IN RIVERDALE. POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS
UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HELICOPTER.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY MEEHAN ON MARCH
2, 1976 CAPTAIN CURRAN, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE AVIATION
UNIT OF THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, WAS INTER-
VIEWED BY A MEMBER OF NYPD INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.
CAPTAIN CURRAN ADVISED THAT NO AVIATION UNIT HELICOPTERS
WERE ON ASSIGNMENT AT SOVIET COMPLEX IN RIVERDALE AT 10:15
HOURS ON FEBRUARY 24, 1976. ALL NYPD HELICOPTERS ARE
CLEARLY MARKED N.Y.C.P.D. AND ARE LIGHT BLUE IN COLOR,
NOT DARK BLUE AS REPORTED BY SOVIETS. CAPTAIN CURRAN
FURTHER ADVISED THAT ON FEBRUARY 27, 1976, BRONX DETECTIVES
AREA REQUESTED THAT PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION OF NYPD TAKE
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AERIAL PHOTOS OF AREA AROUND SOVIET RIVERDALE COMPLEX IN

CONNECTION WITH SHOOTING INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT COMPLEX ON FEBRUARY 27, 1976. THIS ASSIGNMENT WAS COMPLETED AT 1300HOURS THAT DATE.

3. ON MARCH 2, 1976, GEORGE CHRISTEN, CHIEF OF GENERAL AVIATION DISTRICT OFFICE FOR FAA WAS INTERVIEWED BY MEMBER OF NYPD INTELLIGENCE DIVISION REGARDING MATTER. HE ADVISED AFTER CHECKING INTO QUESTION THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO FRED FINE OF ISLAND HELICOPTER SERVICE, LARGEST HELICOPTER SERVICE IN NEW YORK CITY. FINE STATED HIS ORGANIZATION SUPPLY A HELICOPTER TO PATROL TRACK ALONG HUDSON RIVER FOR METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY(M.T.A.). THIS HELICOPTER IS MANNED BY A PILOT AND AN M.T.A. PATROLMAN WHO FLY OVER TRACK AREA ALONG HUDSON RIVER FROM MANHATTAN TO TARRYTOWN, N.Y. LOOKING FOR DEBRIS ON TRACKS, DISORDERLY YOUTHS THROWING ROCKS, ETC. CHRISTEN SAID HE DIRECTED FINE TO INSTRUCT PILOTS OF THIS PATROL HELICOPTER TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY STAY OVER RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY AND DO NOT STRAY, ESPECIALLY IN VICINITY OF SOVIET COMPLEX DURING THEIR ROUTINE PATROL. CHRISTEN STATED THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THIS WAS HELICOPTER THAT FLEW OVER SOVIET COMPLEX, BUT THAT THIS DIRECTION WAS GIVEN TO INSURE SAFETY OF SOVIETS. FURTHER, CHRISTEN ADVISED THAT IN VIEW OF POOR DESCRIPTION OF HELICOPTERS INVOLVED, IDENTIFICATION IS VERY DIFFICULT AND INVESTIGATION IS SEVERELY HINDERED.

4. ON MARCH 3, 1976 CAPTAIN ROSENTHAL, COMMANDING OFFICER OF 50TH PRECINCT, OF NYPD WAS INTERVIEWED AND INFORMED OF SOVIET COMPLAINT. HE ADVISED THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT ALL POLICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO PATROL AT OR IN VICINITY OF SOVIET COMPLEX IN RIVERDALE TO BE ESPECIALLY WATCHFUL FOR LOW FLYING HELICOPTERS IN AREA AND IF POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY SUCH AIRCRAFT. HE SAID HE WILL ALSO INSTRUCT THEM TO REPORT ALL INCIDENTS TO 50TH PRECINCT. CAPTAIN ROSENTHAL FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAS NEVER RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS OF LOW FLYING HELICOPTERS AT SOVIET COMPLEX PRIOR TO THIS INTERVIEW.

5. WE ARE SENDING SOVIET MISSION APPROPRIATE LETTER BASED UNCLASSIFIED

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ON FACTS CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT.
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